

Carry the VISION

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT • VOLUME ONE • JUNE 2011

PAC Naming Opportunity Provides Way For - Tinsleys To Support SHSU Arts

Alan L. Tinsley and his wife, Diane, are thankful for the ability to give back to the university that means so much to them. When the opportunity arose to participate in a new endowment to support the fine arts at Sam Houston State University, they couldn't wait to get involved.

"We were very excited to participate," said Alan Tinsley, SHSU Class of '71. "We were in New York where Katie Rose Clarke, a Sam graduate, was playing the lead in a Broadway play. Another Sam graduate, Allen Shamblin, recently won the Country Music Association's Song of the Year. The talent that Sam Houston has produced and nurtured over the years never ceases to amaze us."

The Tinsleys recently made a sizable commitment to the Fine Arts Permanent Endowment to purchase naming rights for box seating in the concert hall of the James and Nancy Gaertner Performing Arts Center.

The endowment, established in August 2010 in conjunction with the opening of the new Performing Arts Center, provides scholarships and support for the arts programs at Sam Houston.

The endowment allows people to make contributions at any level, whether a one-time donation or a continuing commitment with room naming opportunities. The Office of University Advancement is also working with other individuals who want to establish their own endowments to benefit the arts.



Songwriter and SHSU Alum Allen Shamblin at the Encore event in April, benefiting the College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication. (Insert above) Diane and Alan Tinsley

The Tinsleys believe giving to the Fine Arts Permanent Endowment allows them to do their part in promoting SHSU. "We are always thrilled to do what we can to attract talented students to this grand old university," said Tinsley.

When Tinsley is not hard at work at his title company or law firm, he is giving back in other ways.

He is the current president of the SHSU Alumni Association and is a life member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. He is also a director of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and serves on its legal advisory committee. Most recently, Tinsley became actively involved in the

Lone Survivor Foundation, a charitable organization created by friend and SHSU Distinguished Alum, Navy SEAL hero Marcus Luttrell, to support returning American wounded warriors and their families. Alan and Diane are also very active at Crossroads Cowboy Church in Madisonville where he is a trustee.

Although not a Sam graduate, Diane is a tremendous asset to the university. When not giving back to SHSU, she spends much of her time teaching Zumba lessons and supporting the Madison County Mushroom Festival. She and Alan are also founding members of the Madison County Arts Council.



From the Vice President for University Advancement

Building on the success of the *Share the Vision* Campaign, it is important to our university's future that we maintain communication with our most outstanding supporters.

Accordingly, it is my pleasure to welcome you to this first issue of the *Carry the Vision* newsletter.

Through stories about our dedicated donors and the people and programs their gifts support, we will highlight the significance of philanthropy at Sam Houston State University.

Across the nation, we seem to be on an irreversible course of declining state support for public higher education. At our university in particular, state appropriations have fallen to represent only about one-third of the budget. At some universities outside of Texas, state appropriations now account for less than 10% of their entire budgets.

Sam Houston State has provided accessible, outstanding higher education for more than 131 years. We want to retain that tradition and, at the same time, expand and strengthen our academic offerings to meet the demands of a growing enrollment in a rapidly changing society.

Thanks so much for your faithful support and willingness to consider how and why you might continue to participate in carrying the vision for a greater future for Sam Houston State.



Frank Holmes

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Blackard Provides Gift To Women's Basketball

Thomas Blackard always believed in the importance of education and giving back. As a young man he enlisted in the United States Air Force, allowing him to travel the world in a top secret security position. After completing his duties in the military, he made his way to Sam Houston State University to finish his degree, where he received a BBA in general business administration in 1972.

While living in Huntsville he continued working toward a master's degree and simultaneously began a career with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice as chief accountant in the Industry Division. During that time he also started several family businesses involving real estate and property holdings as well as retail trade.

His optimism and determination led to years of success and provided him with the opportunity to do something he felt was his duty and responsibility—contribute to the education of others.

In 1985 he established the Kyle F. Green Memorial Scholarship Fund, benefiting students on Sam Houston State University's Women's Basketball team. Kyle Green had been one of Blackard's business associates, a family friend and a student at SHSU.

More than 25 years later, his contributions continue to support women's basketball at Sam Houston. Prior to his passing on October 16, 2010, Blackard allowed for a sizeable gift from his estate to continue funding the scholarship.

His generosity is something women's basketball head coach, Brenda Nichols, saw first-hand as a player in the 1980s and later as a coach.

"When I played for Sam Houston back then, Tom Blackard was the president of the Booster Club. He was like a dad to me. He and his wife would have our entire

team over to their house; he even came to my wedding," said Nichols.

When Nichols was hired to coach the team in 2006, Blackard was one of the first to congratulate her.

"He always took an interest in everything that had to do with Sam Houston. He was a great man and a great supporter of the university. He loved Sam Houston and the Bearkats. His entire family bled orange," said Nichols.

Raymond Blackard, one of Thomas Blackard's sons, called his father a role model.

"My dad is giving back from his estate and showing others that they should give back something to the next generation. That is what my dad aspired to do," said Raymond.

During his life in Huntsville, Thomas Blackard was also a generous contributor to other non-profit organizations. He was a member of the Optimist Club and a life member of Huntsville Elks Lodge 1981.

He held numerous local and state positions, including an appointment as Democratic Party Chairman Precinct 201 in 2009.

That same year Blackard remarried. His wife of 14 months, Carolyn, said her husband was "a true gentleman in every way."

"If he could help anyone, he would," said Carolyn. "He wanted people to be educated and would do whatever he could to help them be successful."

Thomas Blackard's family is proud to know that he made sure his support would continue at Sam Houston State University.

He was a great man and a great supporter of the university. He loved Sam Houston and the Bearkats.

Brenda Nichols

Women's Basketball Head Coach



Gibbs Family Honors Sandhop's Memory With Scholarships For Veterans

When Ed Sandhop accepted a job with Gibbs Brothers & Company in 1947, the Gibbs family had no idea the extent of his loyalty.



Ed Sandhop

There was no doubt the World War II veteran was a devoted American. As soon as he turned 18 in 1943, he joined the United States military. He served as a member of the ground crew for military aircraft in the U.S. Army Air Corps and became a member of the first American Volunteer Group (AVG), a distinguished World War II unit known as the Flying Tigers.

He received numerous accolades during his service, including the Air Medal,

Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star.

After completing his tour of duty, Sandhop enrolled at Sam Houston State Teachers College, completing his BBA in 1948. It was during his senior year when he started working for the Gibbs family, and he didn't stop until his retirement in 2004.

For 57 years Sandhop was committed to his career with Gibbs Brothers & Company. In his spare time he was an active civic leader, generously sharing his time and abilities with his community and his university.

He served on several boards at the university, including the President's Circle and the Development Foundation.

In 1990 he was a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest honor the association and Sam Houston can bestow on alumni.

In 2007, he was inducted into the College of Business Administration Hall of Honor, and served as a member of the Executive Leadership Committee for SHSU's *Share the Vision* capital campaign.

In Huntsville, Sandhop also served as president and board member at Huntsville Memorial Hospital and was a City Council member. He was also very active at First Christian Church.

He and his wife, Genevieve, celebrated 67 years of marriage before he passed away in July 2010.

In memory of his friendship with their family for 63 years, and for his dedicated service to Gibbs Brothers for 57 years, the family established a scholarship endowment in his name. The Ed Sandhop Scholarship for Veterans Endowment provides

scholarships to full-time Sam Houston State University students who are United States military veterans.

Justin Meaders, a United States Marine Corps veteran, received the first scholarship from the endowment in Fall 2010.

Meaders was a combat engineer and a martial arts instructor. He deployed to Iraq in 2004 and 2006 and cofounded Operation Helmet with his grandfather, "Doc" Bob Meaders. The organization provides upgraded pad and suspension kits for service members in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as Kevlar helmets to improve protection against over pressure blast waves that can cause traumatic brain injuries.

"We have sent over 56,000 kits thanks to the support of many helpful families across the nation," said Meaders.

Meaders is now attending Sam Houston with the help of the Ed Sandhop Scholarship for Veterans. Receiving the scholarship is something he called "an absolute honor."

"What the Gibbs family has done in remembrance of Mr. Sandhop proves that Ed impacted the lives of many people over the course of his life. The scholarship will allow veterans who win the award to continue his story and embrace his concepts of community giving," said Meaders. "When the time is right I would like to follow in the same inspiring footsteps of the Gibbs family and establish a similar scholarship in remembrance of fallen friends."

The Gibbs family welcomes others to contribute to the Ed Sandhop Scholarship for Veterans through the Office of University Advancement at Sam Houston State University.



(From left) Mary Laura Gibbs, SHSU President Dana Gibson, Genevieve Sandhop, Justin Meaders, Joe Smyth, Julie Gibbs and Donald Gibbs.

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Farrar's Passion For The Outdoors Leads To Gift For Gibbs Ranch

Douglas Farrar was a simple man who enjoyed the simple things in life. The Sam Houston State University graduate earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture in 1972 and master's degree in 1974.

Farrar loved the great outdoors as much as he loved teaching young people about it. For 16 years he taught industrial science and horticulture at what is now Mance Park Middle School in the Huntsville Independent School District.

He also had a second career, from which he retired, with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

During his life he enjoyed working on his ranch and raising cattle. He served on the Walker County Farm Bureau and was a loyal supporter of the Walker County Fair Association where he served on the Steer and Commercial Heifer committees.

In his spare time, Farrar wanted to learn as much as he could about cattle and forages, so he attended several graduate classes and workshops at SHSU, many of which were held at the Gibbs Ranch.

"He had a deep love for agriculture and his community," said his sister, Judy Farrar Bell. "He lived a simple life and was always ready to give a helping hand to anyone who needed assistance. He saved money his entire life and as a result accumulated a sizable estate during his short life of 59 years."

Before his passing in December of 2008, Farrar allocated one-third of his estate to Sam Houston State, with proceeds benefiting the development of the Gibbs Ranch.

"Gibbs Ranch is a living lab for agriculture students. It serves as an extension of the classroom, providing hands-on experience to students in animal science, wildlife management and horticulture courses," said Stanley Kelley, department chair for agriculture and industrial sciences.

"Mr. Farrar was a very strong advocate of education for young people," said Kelley. "He was very interested in the relationship between cattle and forage. With the money he left to the Gibbs Ranch, we are able to expand our studies in those fields and take what he believed in and enhance it in a way that would make him proud."

Farrar was known as a hard-working man and now through his estate, his efforts and generosity continue to help others.



Doug Farrar

